

dilatations of the veins, from the deposition and aggregation of the earthy matters of the blood. Others have imagined that they originate in the coats of the veins, in a similar manner to the calcareous concretions in the coats of arteries, and are subsequently detached. Their rounded form, and uniformly smooth surface, are opposed to the latter explanation. When they are attached to the inner coat of the vein, Tiedemann suggests that the connexion arises from inflammation excited by their presence, and the consequent effusion of coagulable lymph.—*London Medical Gazette*, July, 1832, from *Tiedemann's Zeitschrift für Physiologie*, iv. b. 1 heft.

7. *Case of Puerperal Peritonitis, followed by Ascites and the Spontaneous Perforation of the Abdominal Parietes.*—An instance of this is related by Dr. PuxTous in the *Revue Médicale*, for May last. Two openings were formed, one on the seventeenth or eighteenth day of the disease, beneath the umbilicus; another two days afterwards in the upper part of the left hypogastric region.

MATERIA MEDICA.

8. *New Principle in Cinchona.*—M. VAN MONS has discovered a new principle in the bark of the *Cinchona montana*, which is white, crystallizable, and extremely bitter. The discoverer calls this *Montanine*, and says that he has cured intermittent fevers in three days with it, in doses of two grains a day.—*Buchner, Repertorium für die Pharmacie*.

9. *Lunar Caustic Blister.*—In the 5th Vol. of the *Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta*, we find an article by J. C. BOSWELL, Esq. in which the lunar caustic is recommended as a substitute to cantharides for producing vesication. Mr. B. has used that remedy in pneumonia, phthisis, rheumatism, dysentery, &c. with, he says, decided utility. The blister is formed by slightly wetting the part, and then slowly drawing the stick of lunar caustic over the surface to be blistered, first longitudinally, and then across. The fluid is discharged by small punctures, in about ten hours after the application of the caustic; and no covering being used throughout, the surface becomes in two or three days sufficiently dry to admit of a second application, in the same place if necessary. Mr. B. has put on more than thirty of these blisters in the course of treating a pulmonary case, making the intervals longer as the cure proceeds.

The advantages which the nitrate of silver, applied as a blister, possesses over cantharides, according to Mr. B. appears to be that its action is more immediate, and effect more powerful; it does not affect the urinary organs—requires no dressing—is easy of application, and always available—being so easily carried about.

Mr. Twining, the intelligent secretary of the society, has appended to this paper some remarks confirmatory of the statements of Mr. Boswell. He says that he has found the caustic blisters very useful in chronic rheumatism of long duration, affecting the joints, and unattended with pyrexia, and with little or no acute local inflammation.

10. *On the Diuretic Properties of Lichen Vulgaris.* By Dr. STEVENSON, of H. M. 13th Light Dragoons, at Trichinopoly.—The *Lichen vulgaris* is found in abundance at Bangalore and Trichinopoly; its Tamul name is Kull-pashie; and its decoction in milk is used by the natives in that part of India as a diuretic; but they are not acquainted with its efficacy when applied as a poultice over the loins. Dr. Stevenson recommends the lichen to be boiled in water, and bruised in a mortar; it is then to be applied over the region of the kidneys, as a poultice, and renewed twice a day: using at the same time only laxative me-

dicines, when requisite. Dr. S. mentions the case of a man, who had suffered for many months from dropsy, his abdomen being very tumid and undulating; urine scanty; extremities œdematous; countenance bloated, and skin harsh and dry. A poultice of Lichen vulgaris was applied over each kidney, and produced its diuretic effects so freely, that a quart of urine was voided every second hour, to the interruption of rest. In ten days the circumference of the man's belly had decreased a foot: the dropsy was cured, and the man's health restored. The remedy was used in July, 1829, and the patient remained well when last heard from, sixteen months after. The 2d case was a Dragoon, who had anasarca, the symptoms of which were speedily removed, but the disease returned, and the man died; when the dropsical symptoms were found to be connected with disease of the heart. Dr. S. knows of the lichen being used in a third case, with benefit; but the patient was not under his care, and used other medicines at the same time; therefore, the effects of the remedy might be doubtful in that case. The Lichen vulgaris is commonly found in the Deccan, growing on rocks, and the lower branches and denuded roots of the larger trees.—*Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, Vol. V.*

11. *Remarks on the Medical Properties of the Haritakee, or Myrobalan.* Translated from several Native Medical Works, by RAJAH KALIKISSEN, and read at the Medical Society's Meeting, on the 7th of May, 1831.—The fruit of the Terminalia chebula, which is named Haritakee in Bengal, and Myrobalan in English, is much used as a medicine by the natives of India: their modes of preparing and administering this medicine, and its combination with other substances, is varied according to the season of the year in which it is administered, and the effect intended to be produced. Several kinds of the haritakee are employed medicinally; that chiefly in use, is the small black myrobalan, which is called in Bengallee, Jungeia haritakee. It is considered a mild purgative, of a moderately warm description, which has some tonic properties, and is often used with great advantage in many chronic complaints. It is said to remove obstructions, improve the general health, and strengthen the digestion; relieving bilious disorders, and hypochondriacal affections, and "increasing the happiness of life." A regular course of this medicine is prescribed for the purpose of producing the above effects; and it is recommended to be continued for several months. By this account, haritakee seems to produce all the good effects of Mr. Abernethy's blue pill system, besides many others of great benefit; without any of the evil consequences frequently arising from the habitual and protracted use of mercurial preparations. The efficacy of this medicine is so much extolled, that it seems well worthy of a trial on Europeans, whose health has been impaired for a long time; and especially where the principal disorder is referred to weak digestion, torpid bowels, bilious disorder, and general debility; with lowness of spirits, and emaciation. As an aperient, the usual dose is twenty grains of the black myrobalan in powder, with ten grains of black salt, repeated every morning. In protracted chronic diseases, the haritakee should be continued for three months: during the first month, the combination with black salt as above stated; during the second month, twenty grains of haritakee, with ten grains of brown Jagry sugar, are ordered to be taken every day; and for the third month, twenty grains of haritakee, with ten grains of common salt, and ten grains of caraway seeds in powder.—*Ibid.*

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

12. *Treatment of Gastrodynia* of Dr. GRAVES.—Sept. 1828. Rev. I. D—y, æt. 36, rather corpulent, of temperate habits, has suffered for three years from violent attacks of gastrodynia. They last sometimes for forty-eight hours, and during their continuance the agony is described to be so great as to make even